



Hiwi the Kiwi goes Fishing

Hiwi the Kiwi at a school near you

Fishing is one of the biggest recreational pastimes in New Zealand, with research telling us that over a million Kiwis fish at least once a year.

This is little wonder, given our access to rivers, beaches, lakes and the sea. So to ensure New Zealanders have a respect for this wonderful resource from a young age, the NZ Big Game Fishing Council has contracted popular entertainer, Mark de Lacy, AKA The Minstrel, who over the past 10 years has been performing to over 700 schools throughout New Zealand via his Hiwi the Kiwi and Pukeko Echo shows. With his ability to entertain and inform via dance, song and drama, he is the perfect choice for promoting the *Fishing for the Future* message in-school programme to youngsters in the year 1-8 bracket.

Already booked into 90 schools for 2009, the programme teaches about fishing for the future. The lyrics of the specially written songs – 'Hiwi the Kiwi Goes Fishing' and 'Paua to the People' to name but two – are interwoven into an educa-

tional resource created by Marilyn Small, an experienced teacher who is currently deputy principal at Manaia View School. It covers how to catch fish for food, what to do with it when caught, conservation ethics, protection of the coastline and waterways, along with water safety.

"It is an ambitious and unique project that represents the council's holistic approach to its fisheries management advocacy," says NZBGFC President, Richard Baker.

The scheme will initially run for three years at a total cost of \$300,000, and has already won the support of a number of the recreational fishing industry's major players. A \$40,000 Profile alloy-pontoon-boat package has been put up by Napier's Firman's Marine, supported by Yamaha NZ, DMW Trailers, Electronic Navigation Ltd, Hutchwilco, NZ Water Safety and a number of Firman Marine's suppliers in Napier. This will be a major prize in a student's writing/colouring-in competition fundraiser run by the council. Entry forms are available from Evan Mackay, who

will be trailing the boat around the country in conjunction with the Hiwi the Kiwi programme. Donations can also be made to the project, with a major tackle prize to the value of \$1000 being drawn from among donors each month for the next 12 months.

Other assistance has come from Kilwell Sports (which has supplied tackle prizes), trusts (including NZ Research Foundation), Oxford Trust and Guardians of the Sea, along with business such as Davey Painters, Black Magic Tackle and Enterprise Cars. *NZ Fishing News* has provided logistical support, and is making this page available in each of its monthly issues to get the message across, as well as to acknowledge supporters and publish students' related class work.



At the end of 12 months, this \$40,000 Profile boat package will be the colouring-in/writing competition prize won by one lucky youngster.

Meet the Minstrel

The Minstrel and Hiwi the Kiwi Goes Fishing programme will be at the following schools this next month: July 28, St Patricks Napier; July 30, Parkvale, Hastings and Havelock North Intermediate; July 31, Frimley, Hastings; August 3, Milson and Parkland, Palmerston North; August 4, Manchester and Lytton Street, Feilding; August 6, Ashhurst and Cloverlea, Palmerston North; August 9, Oroua Downs and Winchester, Palmerston North; August 11, Central Normal Palmerston North and Fairfield, Levin; August 14, Coley Street, Foxton; August 17, Island Bay, Wellington; August 18, Kilbirnie Wellington; August 20, Titahi Bay, Porirua.

Mark de Lacy, AKA The Minstrel, is spreading the 'Fishing for the Future' word to primary-school students via his 'Hiwi the Kiwi Goes Fishing' programme.



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